

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. - 14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A precipitated silica ~~exhibiting~~ comprising:

a CTAB specific surface of 140 to 230 m²/g,

a DOP oil uptake of greater than 300 ml/100 g,

a water uptake of less than 6% ~~and preferably of greater than 3%~~,

a pH of 3.5 to 7.5,

a level of residual anion, expressed as sodium sulfate, of less than or equal to 2%, and

a mean particle size or a median particle diameter of less than 30 µm.

16. (Currently Amended) A precipitated silica according to claim 15, exhibiting:

a CTAB specific surface of 145 to 185 m²/g,

a DOP oil uptake of 315 to 450 ml/100 g,

a water uptake of less than 6% and greater than 3%,

a pH of 4 to 7, and

a level of residual anion, expressed as sodium sulfate, of less than or equal 1.5%, ~~and~~

~~a mean particle size or a median particle diameter of between 30 μ m and 20 mm.~~

17. (Currently Amended) A precipitated silica according to claim 16 exhibiting:

a CTAB specific surface of 150 to 185 m²/g,
a DOP oil uptake of greater than 320 to 400 ml/100 g,
a water uptake of greater than or equal to 4% and ~~of~~ less than or equal to 5.8%,
a pH of 4 to 6, and
a level of residual anion, expressed as sodium sulfate, of less than or equal to 1%.

18. (Currently Amended) A precipitated silica according to claim 17, exhibiting:

a CTAB specific surface of 150 to 180 m²/g,
a DOP oil uptake of 340 to 380 ml/100 g, and
a level of residual anion, expressed as sodium sulfate, of less than or equal to 0.5%~~[[,]]~~.

19. (Currently Amended) The silica as claimed in claim 15 4, ~~having a wherein the~~ mean particle size or a median particle diameter ~~of less than 30 μ m, preferably of is less than 20 μ m, in particular of between 5 and 15 μ m, especially between 8 and 13 μ m.~~

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The silica as claimed in claim 15, having a median particle diameter, after deagglomeration under ultrasound, of at most 35 μm , ~~optionally of at most 25 μm .~~

22. (Currently Amended) The silica as claimed in claim 15, having a BET specific surface such that the BET-CTAB difference is at most 30 m^2/g , ~~optionally at most 10 m^2/g .~~

23. (Currently Amended) The silica as claimed in claim 15, having a packing density of at most 0.3 g/ml, ~~optionally of 0.04 to 0.3 g/ml.~~

24. (Previously Presented) The silica as claimed in claim 15, in the form of a powder.

25. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a silica as claimed in ~~one~~ claim 15, comprising the following stages:

(a) producing a starting vessel heel with a temperature of between 80 and 100°C, ~~optionally of greater than or equal to 90°C~~, comprising water and a silicate, with a concentration of silicate in said vessel heel, expressed as SiO_2 equivalent, being less than or equal to 15 g/l;

(b) adding, at a temperature of between 80 and 100°C, ~~optionally 90 and 100°C~~, an acidifying agent to bring the pH of the medium to a value of between 7 and 8, ~~optionally between 7.3 and 7.7~~ to form a medium;

(c) in the medium thus produced in stage (b), carrying out, at a temperature of between 80 and 100°C, ~~optionally between 90 and 100°C~~, a simultaneous addition of a silicate and of an acidifying agent, with a respective amounts of silicate and of acidifying agent added over time being specifically chosen so that, throughout the duration of the addition:

the pH of the reaction medium remains between 7 and 8 and optionally between 7.2 and 7.8; and

the concentration of silicon in the medium, expressed as SiO₂ equivalent, remains less than or equal to 35 g/l;

(d) adding, at a temperature of between 80 and 100°C, ~~optionally between 90 and 100°C~~, an acidifying agent to the medium obtained on conclusion of stage (c) so as to bring the medium to a pH of between 3 and 6.5 to obtain an aqueous silica dispersion;

(e) filtering the aqueous silica dispersion obtained in stage (d) in order to obtain a filtration cake;

(f) drying the filtration cake produced on conclusion of the stage (e), optionally washing it beforehand; and

(g) optionally milling or micronizing the silica obtained on conclusion of stage (f), wherein the filtration cake exhibits, prior to the drying of it in stage (f), a loss on ignition at 1000°C of greater than 82%, ~~optionally of 84 to 88%.~~

26. (Currently Amended) Shoe soles comprising a the silica as defined in claim 15.

27. (Currently Amended) A matrix based on silicone(s) comprising a the silica as defined in claim ~~15~~ as 15 as reinforcing filler.

28. (Currently Amended) A carrier for liquids comprising a the silica as defined in claim 15.

29. (Currently Amended) A dentifrice composition in the paste or gel form comprising a the silica as defined in claim 15 as a thickening agent.

30. (Currently Amended) Battery separators comprising a the silica as defined in claim 15.

31. (New) The precipitated silica according to claim 15, wherein the water uptake is greater than 3%.

32. (New) The precipitated silica according to claim 19, wherein the mean particle size or median particle diameter is 5 to 15 μm .

33. (New) The precipitated silica according to claim 32, wherein the mean particle size or median particle diameter is 8 to 13 μm .

34. (New) The precipitated silica according to claim 21, wherein the median particle diameter, after deagglomeration under ultrasound, is at most 25 μm .

35. (New) The precipitated silica according to claim 22, wherein the BET-CTAB difference is at most 10 m^2/g .

36. (New) The precipitated silica according to claim 23, wherein the packing density is 0.04 to 0.3 g/ml.

37. (New) The precipitated silica according to claim 25, wherein the temperature in stage (a) is greater than or equal to 90°C.

38. (New) The precipitated silica according to claim 25, wherein the temperature in stage (b) is 90 to 100°C.

39. (New) The precipitated silica according to claim 25, wherein the pH in stage (b) is 7.3 to 7.7

40. (New) The precipitated silica according to claim 25, wherein the temperature in stage (c) is 90 to 100°C.

41. (New) The precipitated silica according to claim 25, wherein the temperature in stage (d) is 90 to 100°C.

42. (New) The precipitated silica according to claim 25, wherein the loss on ignition and 1000°C is 84 to 88%.

43. (New) The precipitated silica according to claim 15, wherein the DOP oil uptake is greater than 310 ml/100 g.

44. (New) The precipitated silica according to claim 25, wherein the loss on ignition and 1000°C is greater than 84%.

45. (New) A precipitated silica comprising:
a CTAB specific surface of 140 to 230 m²/g,
a DOP oil uptake of greater than 300 ml/100 g,
a water uptake of less than 6%,
a pH of 3.5 to 7.5,
a level of residual anion, expressed as sodium sulfate, of less than or equal to 2%, and
a mean particle size or a median particle diameter of between 30 µm and 20 mm.